

History of Broken Arrow as the City of Roses

On Oct. 16, 1902, the Arkansas Valley Townsite Company established the original townsite of Broken Arrow within Creek Nation, Indian Territory.

The original townsite was established along the future Missouri, Kansas, and Texas (KATY) Railroad that was under construction and planned to run from the city of Muskogee, which essentially served as the leading city of Indian Territory, to Tulsa, a recent oil boom town in the territory. The railroad finally reached the original townsite on April 13, 1903.

The 220-acres of original townsite developed upon large, open prairie lands that had been owned by Creek Indians who had leased these lands to wealthy Texas cattlemen. These cattlemen would rest and fatten their herds, which numbered in the hundreds of thousands, during the spring months before they drove their cattle to the markets in Kansas.

Since the original townsite was developed upon these open prairie lands, there was sparse vegetation other than grasslands within and around the immediate confines of the community. Early civic leaders attempted to change the community's landscape by mandating the planting of trees, bushes and flowers throughout the city. The rose bush, in particular, was one of the most popular and common additions to the landscape within the community. Many of the early residents planted rose bushes near the fence lines on the perimeter of their properties and along the exterior of their homes. Soon, Broken Arrow gained the reputation as the City of Roses among the many visitors who traveled the railroad.

Today, city leaders desire to embrace and reconnect with our community's historic past as demonstrated by naming the downtown area the Rose District.

Reference(s):

Wise, Donald A. Broken Arrow, City of Roses and Pure Water, Images of America Series (Arcadia Publishing, Chicago, 2002).



Above is an artist rendering of what Main Street Broken Arrow could look like once the streetscape plan in implemented.

Council approves streetscape plan, 'Rose District' as name for Main Street corridor

The Broken Arrow City Council unanimously approved a downtown streetscape plan and the name "Rose District" for the Arts and Entertainment District along Main St. .

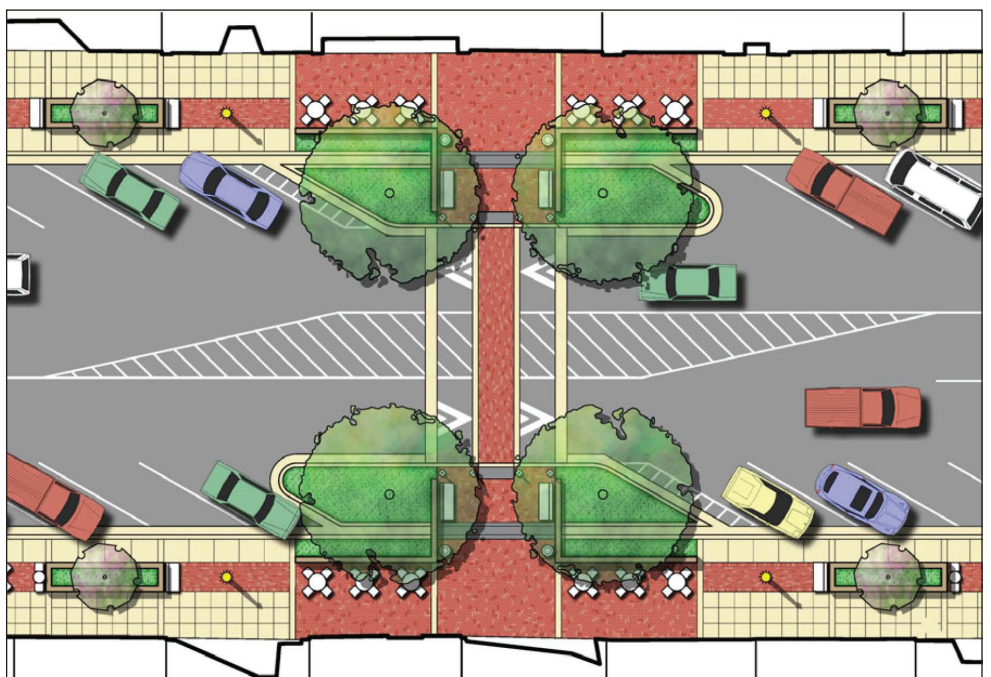
"We are thrilled to take this next step in revitalizing our downtown," said Mayor Craig Thurmond. "This whole process has been in the making for many years. Our Main Street will soon be an area people from inside and outside of Broken Arrow will love to come visit and shop."

The streetscape plan includes a three-lane traffic configuration with angle parking and the

incorporation of a mid-block crossing concept.

The Council, DAB and Planning Commission, as well as the general public, will have an opportunity to view final construction plans before the implementation of the streetscape improvements. Based upon preliminary calculations, the construction cost of the recommended improvements is anticipated to be \$700,000-\$800,000 per block.

The Downtown Advisory Board voted at its Oct. 9 meeting to recommend both the streetscape plan and the name "Rose District" to the City Council.



Development in south BA moving forward

The Broken Arrow City Council approved resolution No. 760, an Economic Development agreement between the Broken Arrow Economic Development Authority, the City of Broken Arrow and SIG-Broken Arrow, Ltd., a Texas Limited Partnership at its Oct. 16 council meeting.

"A lot of work has been done with this," said Mayor Craig Thurmond. "Bass Pro was a big deal when we did that agreement and this development is equally important to get the south part of the city going."

The highlight of this development, named the Shops at Aspen Creek, is a Warren Theatre, a regional destination location, which will be comprised of a 90,000 square foot facility with 14 screens.

Warren Theatre's are highly attractive to communities not only because of their unique combination of higher end food and concessions, but also because of their unique seating arrangements and upscale environment. The 100-acre development is located south of the Creek Turnpike at Aspen Avenue.

"We have been trying to get an arrangement with Warren Theatre for years," said Vice Mayor Richard Carter. "I have been to several of these theaters and they are fantastic. There's really nothing like this around here."

Negotiations began two years ago with Daniel Signorelli, Presidents of Sig-Broken Arrow, Ltd. for a destination development which would include

surrounding restaurants and quality retail establishments on this site.

The agreement provides an overall incentive package of up to \$7.25 million. This agreement provides the City's actual receipt of real property for right-of-way and detention ponds, as well as the construction of public infrastructure such as access roads and public water, storm water, and sanitary sewer lines.

Also, \$3.25 million of the \$7.25 million is in the form of a sales tax rebate, subject to annual appropriation as required by applicable laws, will incentivize the developer to perform.

In sales tax rebates, no monies will be paid by the Authority unless the sales taxes are actually generated.

Youth City Council begins sessions

The 10 members of the new Broken Arrow Youth City Council are ready for session. The group was sworn in at the Oct. 16 council meeting.

Councilors are: Jacqueline Boggs, Austen Catlin, Dre' Harrelson, Andrew Abbott, Stephanie Douglas, Erin McDonald, Stephen Paris, Aspen Schmidt, Ryan Dougherty and Ryan Norman.

The Youth City Council (YCC) was established by the City Council on June 16, 2001 by former Mayor Wade McCaleb, in an effort to link leaders

of today with leaders of tomorrow. Councilor Johnnie Parks is proud to lead the Youth Council for the school year 2012-13.

Each City Council member selects a representative from his ward after applications are received.

The YCC members will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from various departments across the city. The students can also look forward to a mock City Council meeting, a tour of the city, a session on economic development and a trip to the State Capitol.



The 2012-13 Youth City Council members are: Jacqueline Boggs, Austen Catlin, Dre' Harrelson, Andrew Abbott, Stephanie Douglas, Erin McDonald, Stephen Paris, Aspen Schmidt, Ryan Dougherty and Ryan Norman.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR JANUARY 1-31

Through January — Softball Sign ups

Broken Arrow Girls Softball League provides opportunities for girls ages 4 (as of 12/31/12) through 18 to play fastpitch softball. Registration begins in Jan. 2013 online and at the league office, 300 E. Washington St. Practice begins March 1 with games beginning around April 1, 2013. All games are played at Arrowhead Park. Log on to www.bagsl.org for more information or contact Sloan at 918-251-0868.

Jan. 1 — City offices closed for New Years Day.

Jan. 2 — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

Jan. 8 — Downtown Advisory Board 4 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

Jan. 10 — Broken Arrow Planning Commission 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

Jan. 22 — Downtown Advisory Board 4 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

Jan. 24 — Broken Arrow Planning Commission 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

Jan. 26 — Up Close Concert Series
The Karkowska Sisters 8 p.m., Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center, 701 S. Mains St. The duo is an award winning, internationally acclaimed ensemble that in addition to a recital and chamber music repertoire performs extraordinary programs of virtuosity and laughter full of beautiful music, unforgettable stories and comedy. Cost: \$25. For more information visit www.thepacba.com or call 918-259-5778.

Arrowhead Park Trail closed through April

Construction has began for the new Arrowhead Park Softball fields. During the construction phase, Arrowhead Park walking trail will be closed to walkers.

Alternative walking areas are Central Park, 1500 S. Main St.; Jackson Park, 91st and Garnett Rd.; Nienhuis Park, 3201 N. Ninth St. (55th & Lynn Lane); Ray Harral Nature Park, on 121st between Elm Place and 193rd Street; Liberty Trail; and the Trailhead location at 101st and Garnett Road and across from NSU-BA Campus. Construction is expected to be completed in April 2013.